

the largest Aid-to-Navigation Team in the Atlantic Area as the Officer-in-Charge. In 1980, he was again promoted to Chief Warrant Officer as the Commanding Officer of the Aid-to-Navigation Team for the Long Island Sound where he worked to ensure the safety of all nautical vessels by maintaining the integrity of the Long Island Sound's navigation systems.

Captain O'Brien received his commission as Lieutenant in 1983. In 1999, he was assigned to the Marine Safety Office in Memphis, Tennessee as the Commanding Officer. He left for Washington, DC in 2002 to serve as the Coast Guard Liaison to the Navy's Military Sealift Command where he performed a dual role as direct representative of the NMSC and staff member of G-MOC. In 2003, he was promoted to Captain and assumed command of the Marine Safety Office in Hampton Roads before becoming commander of the Sector Hampton Roads in 2005. On June 15, 2006, Captain O'Brien became Commander of Sector New York making him responsible for missions such as search and rescue, law enforcement, maintenance of Aids-to-Navigation, and ship inspections. Most importantly, he worked each and every day to ensure the safety and security of the port and citizens of New York.

Throughout his career, Captain O'Brien has diligently upheld his commitment to the Coast Guardsman's Creed. He is the recipient of multiple Meritorious Service Medals, Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbons. He also holds the Coast Guard Cutterman, Surfman, and Coxswain pins as well as the Officer-in-Charge Afloat, Officer-in-Charge Ashore, and Command Ashore insignias.

For 40 years, his leadership and commitment to the Coast Guard have helped to preserve the safety of our Nation's shores.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating Captain O'Brien on his long and venerable service in the United States Coast Guard.

ON THE OCCASION OF SERGEANT  
JENNIFER EVITTS' TRANSFER  
FROM THE UNITED STATES MARINE  
CORPS LIAISON OFFICE

**HON. GENE TAYLOR**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 26, 2010*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to Sergeant Jennifer Evitts, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of her transfer from the liaison office. I, and many other members of this chamber, have had the pleasure of working with her over the past three years that she has served as part of Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs and as the Congressional Liaison Non-Commissioned Officer of the U.S.M.C. Liaison Office in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sergeant Evitts distinguished herself through exceptional meritorious service while serving as the Non-Commissioned Officer of Legislative Affairs. Every day she served in direct support of not only the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs but in direct support of every member of Congress, every Marine and every American. Her keen abilities in or-

ganization, interpersonal relationships, and communication were extremely critical to the successful accomplishment of the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs' mission. Her achievements and ability to get the job done have been understated but always effective and noteworthy. While serving in the Liaison office, Sergeant Evitts was able to develop and execute legislative strategy for the United States Marine Corps that was instrumental in creating a fiscal and policy landscape conducive to training and equipping the Nation's most elite fighting force, ensuring their success on the battlefield. She routinely turned broad guidance into action which energized the Office of Legislative Affairs and members of Congress alike. Her actions allowed the Marine Corps to engage members of Congress and their staffs, directly facilitating the increased emphasis on improving Congressional relationships—a cornerstone of CMC's strategic vision.

The Marine Corps House of Representatives Liaison Office that Sergeant Evitts leaves behind is functional and responsive, highly integrated, and favors a proactive legislative strategy. While leading the House Liaison Office through the extraordinary challenges associated with Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and the ongoing Global War on Terror, she concurrently ensured that a myriad of daily Congressional communications, taskings and events were executed flawlessly. During Sgt. Evitts' four years as the Non-Commissioned Officer, she accomplished the full spectrum of the Marine Corps' legislative mission. She exemplified the candor and knowledge that we have come to expect from the Marine Corps and she played a key role in maintaining superb relationships between the Marine Corps and the House of Representatives.

Throughout her tour, Sgt. Evitts effectively responded to several thousand congressional inquiries, many of which gained national level attention. During her time on Capitol Hill, Sgt. Evitts successfully planned, coordinated and escorted over 50 international and domestic Congressional and Staff Delegations. Her detailed coordination with foreign government officials, U.S. State Department, and senior military officials ensured that each delegation was conducted professionally. Her attention to detail and anticipation of requirements allowed Representatives to focus on fact-finding and glean new insights that informed critical decisions to support the people of the United States. Due to her professionalism, dedication and keen knowledge, Sgt. Evitts became the most sought after military escort for delegations conducting Congressional travel. The time she has spent supporting Members of the House has been truly noteworthy. She has made lasting contributions to the House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF REV. BEN-  
JAMIN LAWSON HOOKS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 1271 "Honoring the

life and achievements of Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks" introduced by my distinguished colleague from Michigan, Representative CONYERS.

Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks was a civil rights leader and served as the Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1977 to 1992. Dr. Hooks graduated with a bachelor's degree from Howard University, a juris doctor degree from DePaul University College of Law, and received an honorary doctorate from Central Connecticut State University. He held professional memberships with the American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Tennessee Council on Human Relations, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. After passing the Tennessee Bar, he established his own law practice.

Dr. Hooks served as a distinguished adjunct professor for the Political Science Department at the University of Memphis. In 1996, the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change was established at the University of Memphis. The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute is a public policy research center supporting the urban research mission, and honoring Hooks' many years of leadership in the American Civil Rights Movement. The Hooks Institute also emphasizes social movements, race relations, strong communities, public education, effective public participation, and social and economic justice.

Dr. Hooks was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1956, and he preached regularly at the Greater Middle Baptist Church in Memphis. He joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Hooks became a pioneer of NAACP-sponsored restaurant sit-ins and other boycotts of consumer items and services.

In 1965, Dr. Hooks was appointed by Governor Frank G. Clement as the first African American criminal court judge in the Shelby Criminal Court. In 1966, he would later campaign for and win a full term to the same judicial office that he had been appointed to due to a vacancy. In 1972, President Richard Nixon appointed Dr. Hooks to be one of the five commissioners to the Federal Communications Commission, FCC. As a member, he addressed the lack of minority ownership of television and radio stations, the minority employment statistics for the broadcasting industry, and the image of African Americans in mass media. Dr. Hooks served as a producer and host for several local television shows in Memphis.

Dr. Hooks' honors and awards include the NAACP Spingarn Medal for outstanding achievements made by an African American, receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in November of 2007, and he was inducted into the International Civil Rights Hall of Fame at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site on January 12, 2008. The Memphis Library Branch is also named in his honor. The NAACP later created the Benjamin L. Hooks Distinguished Service Award, which is awarded to persons for their efforts in implementing policies and programs which promote equal opportunity.

So it is with great pride and admiration that we honor Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks as a great civil rights leader, and as a successful